

News Release

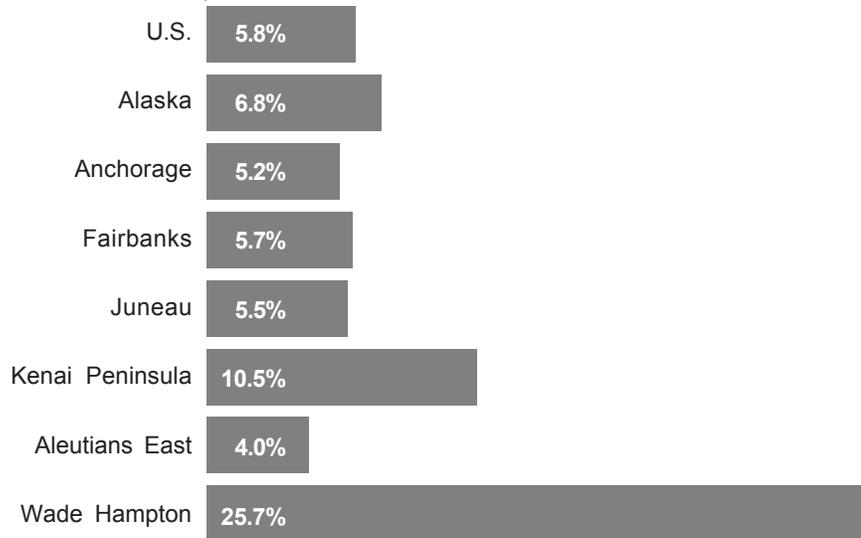
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Unemployment Inches Upward

September Unemployment for Selected Areas



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section
All rates not seasonally adjusted (Detailed table on reverse)

Alaska Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

	preliminary 09/03	revised 08/03	revised 09/02	Changes from	
				08/03	09/02
Total Nonfarm Employment	314,700	319,400	310,600	-4,700	4,100
Natural Resources & Mining	9,900	10,200	10,900	-300	-1,000
Construction	19,700	20,100	19,000	-400	700
Manufacturing	13,400	16,900	13,500	-3,500	-100
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	63,800	65,100	63,500	-1,300	300
Information	7,400	7,200	7,300	200	100
Financial Activities	14,600	14,700	14,000	-100	600
Professional & Business Services	25,200	25,900	24,800	-700	400
Education & Health Services	32,500	32,400	30,400	100	2,100
Leisure & Hospitality	32,900	35,300	32,400	-2,400	500
Other Services	12,700	13,100	12,700	-400	0
Government	82,600	78,600	82,000	4,000	600

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.
Benchmark date: March 2002
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate

September 2003:	Alaska 7.8%	U.S. 6.1%
August 2003:	Alaska 7.9%	U.S. 6.1%
September 2002:	Alaska 8.2%	U.S. 5.7%

Alaska's unemployment rate inched up one-tenth of a percentage point in September to 6.8 percent. The comparable national rate (not seasonally adjusted) fell two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.8 percent. Dan Robinson, a labor economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, reported the numbers.

The monthly household survey shows that employment fell by more than 4,300 in September as Alaska's seasonal industries began winding down. Unemployment was essentially unchanged, however, suggesting that most of the seasonal workers left Alaska's labor force when their summer jobs ended. To be counted as unemployed a person must actively be seeking work, so students who return to school or summer workers who don't look for off-season jobs are considered out of the labor force.

The state's three biggest cities continue to record some of the state's lowest unemployment rates. Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau all had September rates at least a full percentage point lower than the 6.8 percent statewide rate. In general, rural Alaska has significantly higher rates. The Wade Hampton Census Area recorded the state's highest rate at 25.7 percent, while the Northwest Arctic and North Slope boroughs and the Bethel Census Area also saw unemployment rates significantly higher than the statewide average.

September estimates of wage and salary employment show a decline of 3,500 manufacturing jobs, mostly in seafood processing as the salmon season wrapped up. The Leisure & Hospitality sector lost 2,400 jobs as the summer visitor season neared its end. Government jobs increased by 4,000 in September, due almost entirely to the beginning of the academic school year at the University of Alaska and the state's K-12 public schools.

Alaska has added approximately 4,100 jobs since September 2002, an increase of 1.3 percent. At the end of the third quarter, it appears that 2003 will mark the state's sixteenth consecutive year of job growth.

URL Address: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

Contact: Dan Robinson (907) 465-6036

Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	09/03	08/03	09/02	09/03	08/03	09/02	09/03	08/03	09/02	09/03	08/03	09/02
Alaska Statewide	347,806	352,150	325,270	23,713	23,692	22,948	6.8	6.7	7.1	324,093	328,458	302,322
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	193,320	191,493	177,255	10,841	10,710	10,349	5.6	5.6	5.8	182,479	180,783	166,906
Municipality of Anchorage	155,185	155,466	145,009	8,104	7,999	7,720	5.2	5.1	5.3	147,081	147,467	137,289
Mat-Su Borough	38,135	36,027	32,246	2,737	2,711	2,629	7.2	7.5	8.2	35,398	33,316	29,617
Gulf Coast Region	34,718	37,324	33,623	3,227	3,138	3,430	9.3	8.4	10.2	31,491	34,186	30,193
Kenai Peninsula Borough	22,952	24,588	22,099	2,403	2,281	2,397	10.5	9.3	10.8	20,549	22,307	19,702
Kodiak Island Borough	6,634	7,271	6,527	383	485	534	5.8	6.7	8.2	6,251	6,786	5,993
Valdez-Cordova CA	5,134	5,465	4,998	442	372	500	8.6	6.8	10.0	4,692	5,093	4,498
Interior Region	53,344	53,924	50,800	3,292	3,268	3,282	6.2	6.1	6.5	50,052	50,656	47,518
Denali Borough	1,248	1,222	1,186	82	42	79	6.6	3.4	6.7	1,166	1,180	1,107
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	47,035	47,560	44,671	2,665	2,654	2,547	5.7	5.6	5.7	44,370	44,906	42,124
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,688	2,725	2,618	227	235	282	8.4	8.6	10.8	2,461	2,490	2,336
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	2,374	2,416	2,325	319	336	374	13.4	13.9	16.1	2,055	2,080	1,951
Northern Region	9,283	9,219	8,893	1,584	1,632	1,369	17.1	17.7	15.4	7,699	7,587	7,524
Nome Census Area	3,356	3,385	3,196	493	564	398	14.7	16.7	12.5	2,863	2,821	2,798
North Slope Borough	3,522	3,438	3,323	608	566	475	17.3	16.5	14.3	2,914	2,872	2,848
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,405	2,394	2,375	484	501	497	20.1	20.9	20.9	1,921	1,893	1,878
Southeast Region	40,589	42,720	38,991	2,568	2,619	2,481	6.3	6.1	6.4	38,021	40,101	36,510
Haines Borough	1,274	1,336	1,216	99	97	88	7.8	7.3	7.2	1,175	1,239	1,128
Juneau Borough	18,103	19,067	17,326	991	1,019	894	5.5	5.3	5.2	17,112	18,048	16,432
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,599	8,024	7,494	441	474	620	5.8	5.9	8.3	7,158	7,550	6,874
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	2,898	3,019	2,710	369	351	281	12.7	11.6	10.4	2,529	2,668	2,429
Sitka Borough	4,771	5,015	4,576	250	246	234	5.2	4.9	5.1	4,521	4,769	4,342
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,110	2,235	2,023	137	154	129	6.5	6.9	6.4	1,973	2,081	1,894
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,518	3,682	3,351	261	246	223	7.4	6.7	6.7	3,257	3,436	3,128
Yakutat Borough	315	342	296	20	31	13	6.3	9.1	4.4	295	311	283
Southwest Region	16,552	17,470	15,708	2,201	2,325	2,036	13.3	13.3	13.0	14,351	15,145	13,672
Aleutians East Borough	1,785	1,874	1,693	71	66	60	4.0	3.5	3.5	1,714	1,808	1,633
Aleutians West Census Area	2,677	2,821	2,569	176	182	187	6.6	6.5	7.3	2,501	2,639	2,382
Bethel Census Area	6,555	6,933	6,223	992	1,062	923	15.1	15.3	14.8	5,563	5,871	5,300
Bristol Bay Borough	541	568	522	49	49	54	9.1	8.6	10.3	492	519	468
Dillingham Census Area	1,950	2,040	1,842	212	206	187	10.9	10.1	10.2	1,738	1,834	1,655
Lake & Peninsula Borough	588	611	576	70	64	83	11.9	10.5	14.4	518	547	493
Wade Hampton CA	2,457	2,622	2,282	631	695	542	25.7	26.5	23.8	1,826	1,927	1,740

Benchmark: March 2002

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. * Comparisons between different time periods are not as

meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. * The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.